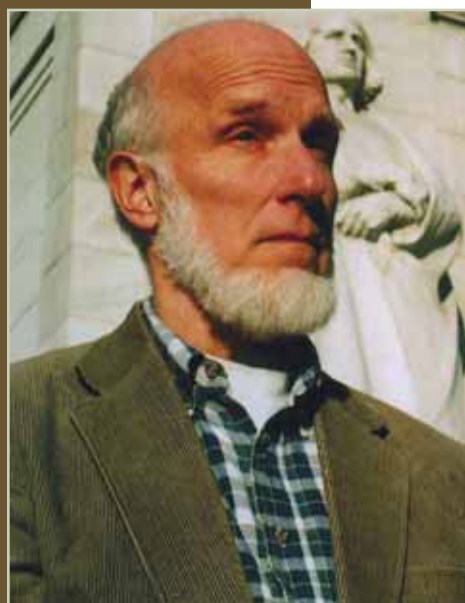


Scholar in Residence

Possible sundown towns in Kansas listed on Loewen's Web site are Arma, Ashland, Atwood, Augusta, Belle Plaine, Belleville, Beloit, Blue Rapids, Burlingame, Burlington, Caney, Cedar Vale, Chapman, Cheney, Cimarron, Clearwater, Clyde, Colby, Coldwater, Conway Springs, Dighton, Douglass, Elkhart, Ellinwood, Enterprise, Erie, Eureka, Frontenac, Greensburg, Halstead, Harper, Hays, Hoisington, Howard, Hoxie, Kiowa, La Crosse, Lakin, Leoti, Lincoln Center, Lindsborg, Madison, Mankato, Marion, Marysville, Meade, Mulvane, Neodesha, Ness City, Nickerson, Norton, Oberlin, Scammon, Scott City, Smith Center, Solomon, St. Francis, Stafford, Sublette, Tribune, Victoria, Washington, Wilson and Yates Center.



6

'Sundown Towns' Author to Speak

Dr. James Loewen, historian, sociologist and author of *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism*, will talk

about racial exclusion across America in a free public lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, in the Craig Community Auditorium.

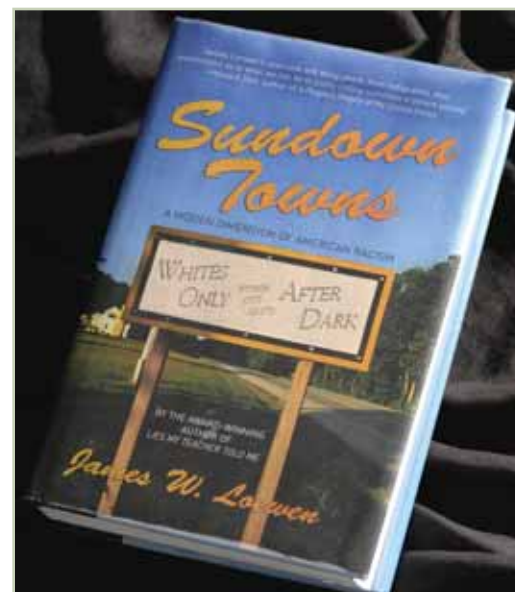
The book's cover features a photo of a sign "Whites Only Within City Limits After Dark." While the whites-only attitude is usually thought of as one reserved for the Jim Crow South, Loewen's analysis of American residential patterns demonstrate racial exclusion as the norm for American towns for much of the 20th century. Loewen also suggests a number of solutions for all-white neighborhoods that still exist.

Loewen, professor emeritus, sociology, at the University of Vermont, has a Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University and currently lives in Washington, D.C. He previously published *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong* and *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*, which look at errors and omissions in American history.

Loewen's lecture is part of JCCC's scholar-in-residence program, designed to bring visiting scholars to students, faculty and the public. Loewen's residency is sponsored by Dr. Diane Kappen, adjunct professor, psychology, and Stu

Shafer, sociology professor, as advisers for Making Opportunities for Students to Appreciate Inclusiveness. Loewen's visit is also sponsored by JCCC Student Life and Leadership, the sociology department and the Minority Museum, Kansas City, Mo.

"His books focus on neglected but historically significant events that have led to the inequality we experience today," Kappen said. "*Sundown Towns* discusses towns and counties that prohibited Black Americans from becoming residents after the post-Civil War Reconstruction period. This was blatant discrimination that produced a self-fulfilling pattern of



inequality over the decades since 1890."

When Loewen began his research for the book, he expected to find about 10 sundown towns in Illinois (his home state) and perhaps 50 across the country. Instead, he found more than 440 in Illinois and thousands across the United States.

The author writes, "From Maine to California, thousands of communities kept out African Americans (or sometimes Chinese Americans, Jewish Americans, etc.) by force, law, or custom. These communities are sometimes called 'sundown towns' because some of them posted signs at their city limits reading, typically, 'N____, Don't Let The Sun Go Down On You In ____.' Some towns are still all white on purpose. Their chilling stories have been joined more recently by the many elite (and some not so elite) suburbs like Grosse Pointe, Mich., or Edina, Minn., that have excluded nonwhites by kinder, gentler means."

Loewen's presentation follows a Student Life and Leadership debate on immigration, *What Side are You On?*, which takes place from noon to 1 p.m. Nov. 7 in Craig Community Auditorium. Loewen's work connects the history of discrimination against particular groups with current issues surrounding immigration. During his two-day residency, Loewen will also be available for history and sociology classes as well as present a student-oriented discussion.

Dr. James Loewen will be JCCC's first 2007-2008 scholar in residence.